

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

December 14, 2011

Item 4A

Discussion

Quarterly Report on Activities Related to Transportation Policies and Plans

BACKGROUND

Alameda Municipal Code (AMC) Section 2-8.1 states that the Transportation Commission “shall monitor, via quarterly staff reports, implementation of approved transportation plans and policies.” This report provides an update regarding activities during the quarter of October through December 2011.

DISCUSSION

The table below lists various work tasks completed or being worked on by staff relating to Transportation Plans from October through December 2011.

Plans	Recent/Upcoming Activities
Updated Bicycle Master Plan (Approved November 2010)	<p>Bicycle Design Guidelines: Public Works Department staff is in the process of finalizing the draft bicycle design guidelines.</p> <p>Estuary Crossing Shuttle: The Air District approved \$114,000 in funding for the second year of the shuttle, which is less than the \$120,000 that the City of Alameda requested. The Air District also reduced the funding for the first year of the shuttle from \$193,358 to \$167,233 due to the reduced shuttle’s passenger capacity. The Public Works Department staff is in the process of obtaining more monies from grants, developers, property managers and other key stakeholders to close the funding gaps for both the current year and the second year. Furthermore, staff is looking into the feasibility of extending the shuttle service to Wind River, which would reduce the layover times at the Alameda stops. Staff has established contact with Wind River employees. Currently, the shuttle travels between the cities of Alameda and Oakland stopping at the College of Alameda (COA), Marina Village/COA satellite campus (860 Atlantic Avenue) and Lake Merritt BART (near Laney College) during the weekday hours of 6:55 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 3:25 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The targeted shuttle users are bicyclists and students, faculty and staff from the COA and Laney College as well as the general public. The shuttle service is funded for two years by BAAQMD’s Transportation Fund for Clean Air Regional Fund and a local match from the City’s Transportation Demand Management fund.</p> <p>Safe Routes to Transit (SR2T): Public Works Department staff <i>was not successful</i> at obtaining a SR2T grant application for \$328,092 to fund the installation of ten new bus shelters, real-time traveler information at bus shelters along Park Street and Webster Street, and bike route signs along west end bikeways as recommended in the City of Alameda Bicycle Master Plan Update (2010). The purpose of this project was to provide enhanced convenience for bus passengers during their travel to/from bus stops and while waiting at bus stops, and to provide awareness to motorists of the bicyclists' presence along the planned bike routes.</p> <p>Shoreline Drive/Westline Drive Bike Lanes: Public Works Department staff is in the process of requesting authorization from Caltrans to proceed with preliminary engineering. This project will restripe Shoreline Drive and Westline Drive to install bike</p>

Plans	Recent/Upcoming Activities
	lanes, reduce travel lanes and provide enhanced parking. Federal money requested - \$416,400 with a local match of \$46,400. Staff will be bringing this project as a separate item to the Commission next year.
Long-Range Transit Plan Update	Staff continues to work on the Federally Funded Alameda Point Transit and Access Plan and Implementation of the Shuttle Service Improvements project. During the last quarter, staff worked on various elements of the plan. Staff also held meetings with AC Transit and the City of Oakland on refining the transit service alignments in the Oakland area. Staff will continue to seek funding to update the City's Long Range Transit Plan.
TSM/TDM Plan	Public Works Department staff in association with its consultant – Dowling Associates – is in the process of determining recommended TSM/TDM measures that reduce the amount of commute travel by single-occupant autos. The TSM/TDM measures are being assessed by their potential effectiveness in reducing single-occupant auto use for commute trips based on specific needs of Alameda businesses, residents and employees.
Pedestrian Plan (Approved January 2009)	<p>New Freedom Grant: Public Works Department staff <i>was successful</i> at obtaining a grant for \$188,625 from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to install Accessible Pedestrian Signals at nine intersections adjacent to bus stops in the City of Alameda. These intersections were chosen based on inclusion in the City of Alameda Pedestrian Plan (2009), community requests and proximity to bus stops. Since blind or visually-impaired individuals are unable to drive and are transit dependent, intersections near bus stops were selected to provide these individuals with accessible transportation to and from their homes, jobs, shopping and other activities.</p> <p>Federal Safe Routes to School (SRTS) – Gibbons Drive: Public Works Department staff <i>was successful</i> at obtaining a Federal SRTS grant application for Infrastructure Improvements to the Gibbons Drive/Northwood Drive/Southwood Drive Intersection – Based on traffic analyses and community feedback, staff developed an infrastructure project to improve access through this intersection. The \$184,600 funding request will install medians, stop controls, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) pedestrian ramps to channelize traffic and improve pedestrian access.</p> <p>Federal SRTS – Mecartney Rd/Island Dr: Public Works Department staff <i>was not successful</i> at obtaining a Federal SRTS grant application for Infrastructure Improvements to the Mecartney Road/Island Drive Intersection – Based on community concerns, input from the crossing guard for this intersection, traffic data and City Council direction, staff developed an infrastructure project to improve access through this intersection. The \$105,000 funding request was to repair the uneven walking surfaces of the crosswalks for pedestrians and individuals with disabilities; remove the portions of the existing center medians that extend partially into the crosswalks; install a new bus landing area at the existing bus stop; enhance existing signage at the intersection; and realign the crosswalks for improved access to the pedestrian ramps.</p> <p>State SRTS – Call for Projects in December: The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is preparing for the next round of funding for the state-legislated Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Program. It is anticipated that the next "call for projects" will be announced in December 2011. Updates are at the main SRTS/SR2S webpage at http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/saferoutes/saferoutes.htm.</p>

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS/FISCAL IMPACT

The City Council has approved the funding required for the above activities.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for discussion purposes only.

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